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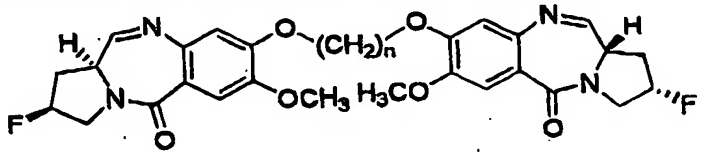
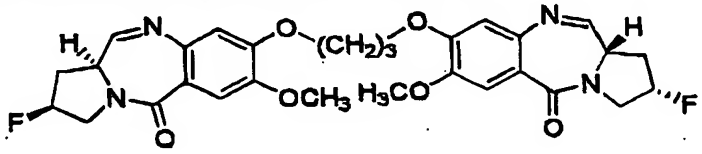
We Claim:

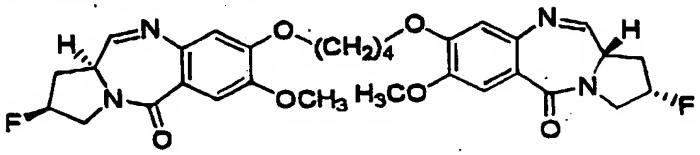
1. A novel pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepine of formula IX where n is 3 to 10.



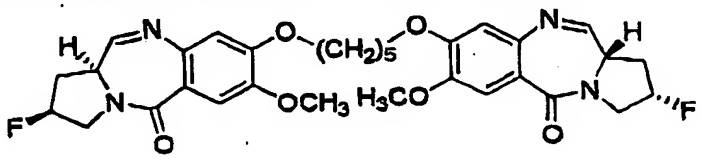
2. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



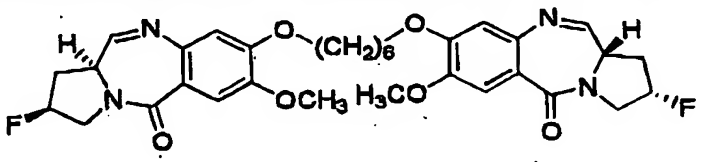
3. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



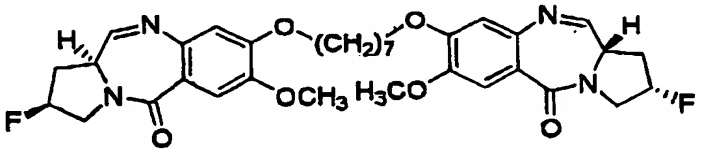
4. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



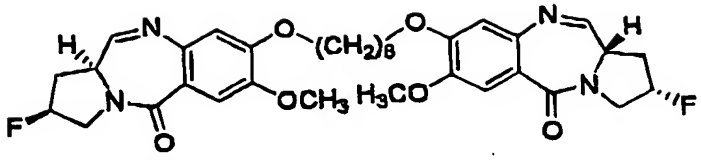
5. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



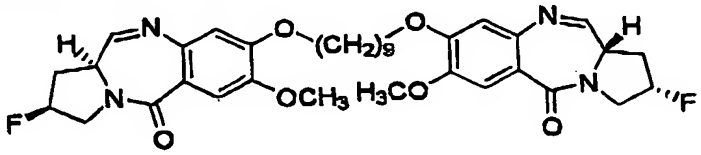
6. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



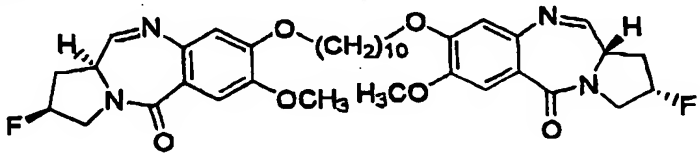
7. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



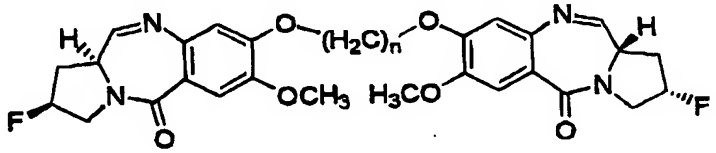
8. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



9. A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



10. A process for the preparation of bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepines of formula IX



Formula IX

where n is 3 to 10, which comprises:

(a) reacting methyl (2*S*)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-hydroxypyrrolidine-2-carboxylate dissolved in an organic solvent,

(b) cooling the solution and adding a solution of diethylaminosulfurtrifluoride (DAST) in an organic solvent drop wise;

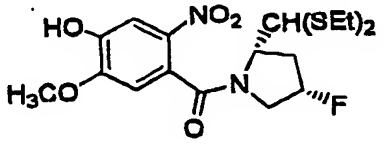
(c) isolating the methyl (2*S*)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxylate with DIBAL-H formed in the presence of an organic solvent and cooling;

(d) isolating methyl (2*S*)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde formed;

(e) protecting methyl (2*S*)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde with EtSH in presence of an organic solvent;

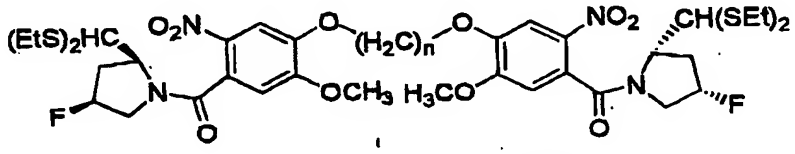
(f) isolating (2*S*)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal;

(g) reacting the (2*S*)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal with a debenzylating agent to obtain (2*S*)-N-[4-hydroxy – 5 – methoxy – 2 - nitrobenzoyl] – 4 – fluoropyrrolidine – 2 – carboxaldehyde – diethylthioacetal of formula VI,



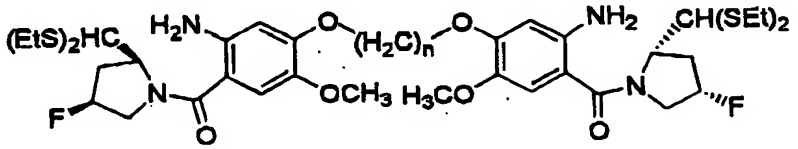
Formula VI

(h) reacting (2*S*)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent and in the presence of a mild inorganic base up to refluxing temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-nitro-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene) carbonyl] bis [4-fluoropyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal] of formula VII where n is 3-10



Formula VII

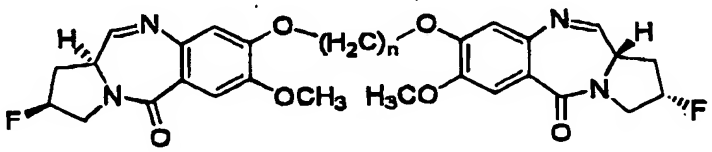
(i) reducing the compound of formula VII with $SnCl_2 .2H_2O$ in presence of organic solvent up to a reflux temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-amino-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]]bis [4-fluoro-pyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal]] of formula VIII where n is 3-10



Formula VIII

(j) reacting the compound of formula VIII with a deprotecting agent to obtain bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepines of formula IX wherein n is as stated above.

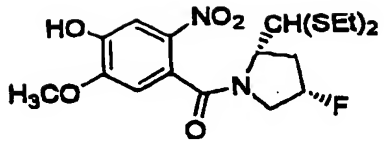
11. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the organic solvent used in steps (a), (b) and (c) comprises CH_2Cl_2.
12. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein in step (a) the solution is cooled to a temperature of -78°C.
13. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the drop wise addition in step (b) is carried out for a period of 40 min.
14. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein step (c) is carried out after 15 hours of step (b).
15. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the cooling in step (c) is done to a temperature of -78°C and for a period of 45 minutes.
16. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein step (e) is carried out in presence of an organic solvent and at room temperature.
17. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the the (2*S*)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI is reacted with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile and DMF and in the presence of a mild inorganic base selected from the group consisting of K_2CO_3, $CsCO_3$ and $BaCO_3$.
18. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein step (h) is carried out for a period of about 48 hours.
19. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the reduction in step (i) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent comprising methanol.
20. A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the deprotecting agent comprises a combination of $HgCl_2$ and HgO in CH_3CN/H_2O.
21. A process for the preparation of bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-*c*][1,4]benzodiazepines of formula IX



Formula IX

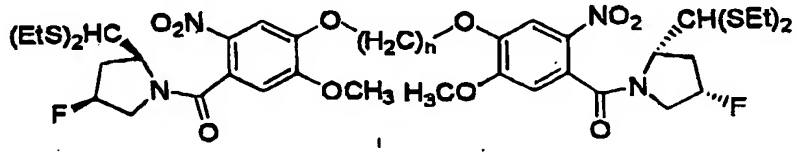
where n is 3 to 10, which comprises:

(a) (2*S*)-N-[4-hydroxy – 5 – methoxy – 2 - nitrobenzoyl] – 4 – fluoropyrrolidine – 2 – carboxaldehyde – diethylthioacetal of formula VI,



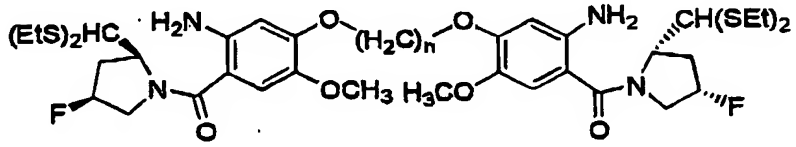
Formula VI

(b) reacting (2*S*)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent and in the presence of a mild inorganic base up to refluxing temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-nitro-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene) carbonyl] bis [4-fluoropyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal] of formula VII where n is 3-10



Formula VII

(c) reducing the compound of formula VII with $SnCl_2$.$2H_2O$ in presence of organic solvent up to a reflux temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-amino-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]]bis [4-fluoro-pyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal]] of formula VIII where n is 3-10



Formula VIII

(d) reacting the compound of formula VIII with a deprotecting agent to obtain bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepines of formula IX wherein n is as stated above.

22. A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the (2*S*)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI is reacted with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile and DMF and in the

presence of a mild inorganic base selected from the group consisting of K_2CO_3, $CsCO_3$ and $BaCO_3$.

23. A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein step (b) is carried out for a period of about 48 hours.

24. A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the reduction in step (c) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent comprising methanol.

25. A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the deprotecting agent comprises a combination of $HgCl_2$ and HgO in CH_3CN/H_2O.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula IX and pharmaceutically acceptable additives.

27. Method for the treatment of cancer in a patient suffering from the same, said method comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula IX.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the patient is a mammal.

29. A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the mammal is a human being.

30. A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of leukemia, non-small cell, lung, colon, CNS, melanoma, ovarian, renal, prostate and breast.

31. Use of a compound of formula IX for the treatment of cancer selected from the group consisting of leukemia, non-small cell, lung, colon, CNS, melanoma, ovarian, renal, prostate and breast in a subject suffering from the same.